

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)). Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,722,381 to Tuneblom. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, defines a vibrating aggregate for vibrating a piece attached thereto. The aggregate comprises a shaft, an eccentric mass connected eccentrically to the shaft, and transmission arrangements for driving the shaft. The shaft includes at each end thereof a shaft section mounted by means of one bearing for each shaft section in a piece to be vibrated, the shaft sections each being detachably connected to respective ends of the shaft by a joint, the joint being adapted to transmit torque moment, the joint being rigid and adapted to transmit bending moment.

As explained in the present application, the claimed aggregate offers various advantages, including cost savings resulting from a simple structure including no complicated articulated shaft, and fewer bearings.

Tuneblom does not anticipate claim 1. For example, Tuneblom discloses a shaft that is held in place at each end by two bearings 58 and 60 while claim 1 recites a combination of features including a shaft including at each end thereof a shaft section mounted by means of one bearing for each shaft section in a piece to be vibrated.

In view of the differences between claim 1 and Tuneblom, and further in view of the advantages available through claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by and define patentably over Tuneblom.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,220,846 to Niklewski. However, Niklewski does not anticipate claim 1 for at least the reason that Fig. 3 of Niklewski discloses a short shaft 4 that is supported at each end by a pair of bearings 3a (col. 4, line 18).

In view of the differences between claim 1 and Niklewski, and further in view of the advantages available through claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by and define patentably over Niklewski.

Claims 4, 5 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuneblom in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,615,233 to Redinger. Claims 4, 5 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Niklewski in view of Redinger. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Redinger is cited as disclosing a conical joint having an axial screw. Redinger, however, cures none of the defects of Tuneblom or Niklewski with respect to claim 1 as discussed above and, therefore, for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Tuneblom and Niklewski, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom, including claims 4, 5 and 7-11, are patentably distinguishable over Tuneblom or Niklewski in view of Redinger.

Claims 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuneblom. Claims 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Niklewski. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

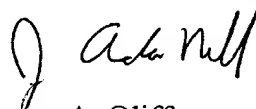
It is asserted by the Office Action that joining two rotary components by corresponding surfaces is known in the art. Without necessarily agreeing either that this subject matter is known in the art, or that one skilled in the art might somehow have been motivated to modify the primary references in view of this knowledge, such a modification still cures none of the defects of Tuneblom or Niklewski with respect to claim 1 as discussed

above, and therefore, for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Tuneblom and Niklewski, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom, including claims 6 and 12, are patentably distinguishable over Tuneblom or Niklewski in view of the alleged knowledge in the art.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, claims 1-12, are in condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

J. Adam Neff
Registration No. 41,218

JAO:JAN/scg

Attachment:
Appendix

Date: March 12, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim:

1. (Twice Amended) A vibrating aggregate for vibrating a piece attached thereto, the aggregate comprising:

a shaft;

an eccentric mass connected eccentrically to the shaft; and

transmission arrangements for driving the shaft;

the shaft including at each end thereof a shaft section mounted by means of ~~a~~one bearing for each shaft section in a piece to be vibrated, the shaft sections each being detachably connected to respective ends of the shaft by a joint, the joint being adapted to transmit torque moment, the joint being rigid and adapted to transmit bending moment.